

was known to the leaders of the French
 that Manuel
 had lately sworn a truce of twelve
 years with the
 very Sultan of Iconium on whom they
 hoped first
 to whet their swords. They believed,
 too, that
 the Germans had been hurried over the
 Hellespont
 in order to divide them from the
 French host.
 For a moment an unworthy thought
 suggested
 itself to Louis, to fall back on
 Adrianople, unite
 with Roger, and, French army and
 Sicilian navy
 together, storm the weakly-defended
 walls of
 Constantinople. He advanced,
 however, and
 reached the gates of the capital on
 October the
 4th, being received in peace, and with
 great pomp,
 by the Emperor. Yet still the danger to
 the city
 was not past. At a war-council held
 before the
 city, Geoffrey, Bishop of Langres,
 delivered a
 disgraceful and violent harangue. The
 French
 ought not to depart, but should use
 their forces
 against Constantinople. The walls
 were rotten,
 the people cowards; the city once
 taken, the whole
 Empire would fall. The Emperor
 deserved no
 consideration; like his fathers, he was a
 foe to the
 Christian religion; let his Empire be
 once over-
 thrown, and the Christians in the
 Holy Land
 would be safe, whereas now they were
 in constant

danger from Greek designs.

With such a medley of theological and racial bitterness, of the lust of barbarous adventurers and a discerning but immoral strategy, the warriors of the Fourth Crusade may have been fortified when, fifty-seven years later, they carried out the crime